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State AG Nessel makes special appearance at Paw Paw No Kings 2 rally

By Ann Burch

PAW PAW - "We are not going to bend. We will not bow. We will not break. We will not capitulate to this lawless, reckless, chaotic, criminal want-to-be dictator of a president," Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel told a crowd of over 600 at the No Kings 2 rally in Paw Paw held Saturday, Oct. 18.

Nessel, who spoke for a little over 10 minutes, said her office has filed 34 lawsuits against the federal government since Trump took office this past January. She urged everyone to unite to preserve democracy in this country.

"That is going to take all of you, each and every one of you. We have to show up over and over again…that when you have a democracy that is quickly, quickly becoming a dictatorship, an autocracy, the only thing to stop it is peaceful, lawful protests by the people of our country," Nessel said.

Organized by Indivisible Paw Paw, the No Kings 2 Day of Action protest was one a dozen held in Southwest Michigan and among 2,700 across the country. According to Indivisible national, more than seven million people took to the streets to say America has no kings, and the power belongs to the people.

Before Nessel addressed the group, long-time community organizer Katheen Murphy welcomed the crowd, reminding them that this is the sixth protest put on by Indivisible Paw Paw since April, saying the protests have meaning to those participating.

"When I first got involved with Indivisible Paw Paw back in January, I would read things put out by the national Indivisible about how important building community was. Now, I really get it," Murphy said. "I didn't know anyone in the local Indivisible at the time but as we got together, made plans and implemented them, I felt the strength and support of others."

According to an organization spokesperson, members are committed to supporting groups in Van Buren County that provide essentials to those in need, believing it is a responsibility to help neighbors facing hardship.

Almost $500 was raised at Saturday's event for the Aleman Center, a food and clothing pantry at Immaculate Conception Church, Hartford, sponsored by the Catholic Diocesan of Kalamazoo.

Past events have contributed more than $2,000 to Southwest Michigan food pantries.

Moving forward, a "Food Drive for Democracy" event is planned for Nov. 8. The caravan, which will travel from South Haven to Paw Paw, finishing in Kalamazoo, will include a food drive for pantries in each community. Check each Indivisible' s social media site for more details.

"We are focused on the urgency of the actions and responses that are needed. This means we need you!" Murphy said of the local Indivisible's mission.

"We need you to pay attention, and to participate in this non-violent movement. We abide by the law. We love our country. We love our families," Murphy said. "I hope that for all of you, that you find community, with us at Indivisible, in your neighborhood, family or friends, or all of the above!"

Charlie Kirk remembered by area residents on what would have been his 32nd birthday

By Paul Garrod
Staff Writer
news4garrod@gmail.com

PAW PAW - Tuesday, Oct. 14, was designated by Congress as the National Day of Remembrance for Charlie Kirk, recognizing his lasting contributions to civic education and public service. To mark what would have been his 32nd birthday, events were held across the country, with a local event held at Maple Lake Amphitheatre, Paw Paw, organized by Robyn Peake.

Peake told the more than 200 people who gathered for the one-hour event that it served as "a community response to what we saw on Sept. 10. We have an amazing crowd here."

Kirk, a conservative political influencer and entrepreneur, said what he wanted to be remembered for mostly was his faith. He co-founded the conservative student organization Turning Point USA in 2012 and served as its executive director until his public assassination on Sept. 10, in Orem, Utah, at the Utah Valley University campus, in front of students and his family.

"We know that this is his first birthday in the arms of Jesus, but for his wife, Erika……," said Peake, who then offered a moment of silence for Kirk.

"It's been a huge range of emotions that I think all of us felt," said Peake about Kirk's assassination. "I think it's very important for the community to come together when something shocks us and hits us so hard."

"Some say that Charlie was a racist. That was a flat out lie," said one speaker.

Another individual who spoke offered up a prayer for Erika Kirk and the children.

Yet another speaker said, "Charlie was truly an inspiration for people like me."

Another person who spoke read a poem that she had written.

"We want Charlie's work to continue. We want his messages of faith and hope to reverberate through the nation," said Peake.

A condolence book was located at the amphitheatre for those who attended to sign. It was scheduled to be delivered to Erika.

Paw Paw man faces drug and firearm charges

By Paul Garrod
Staff Writer
news4garrod@gmail.com

PAW PAW - A 43-year-old Paw Paw man faces several drug and firearm charges, following his by the Van Buren County Sheriff's Office.

Van Buren County Sheriff Daniel Abbott reported that the Van Buren County Narcotics Unit conducted an investigation in the Village of Paw Paw into the illicit sale of narcotics, specifically methamphetamine and cocaine.

The investigation led to a search warrant being conducted in the 200 block of Willard Street During the search, Narcotics detectives recovered, a loaded 40 caliber handgun, 23.7 ounces of methamphetamine and 15.7 ounces of cocaine.

Detectives also seized approximately $5,200 in United States currency, directly related to the sale of the narcotics.

Sheriff Abbott said there were two small children in the house at the time of the incident and that Child Protective Services (CPS) were contacted to conduct a joint investigation.

The suspect was arrested and lodged at the Van Buren County Jail without incident. He faces charges of possession with intent to deliver methamphetamine, possession of methamphetamine (23.7 ounces), possession of cocaine (15.7 ounces), felony firearm, felon in possession of a firearm, and maintaining a drug house.

This investigation remains open.

Lawrence grad named LMC's Distinguished Alumni

Lake Michigan College has announced that 2025 Clarence Beckwith Distinguished Alumni Award has been awarded to Dr. John Marcelletti. This award is given to an LMC alumnus who has accomplished significant success in his/her personal or professional endeavors. John will be honored at the Alumni Awards reception on Saturday, October 25, at Lake Michigan College John, the son of Frank and Janet (McNabb) Marcelletti grew up on Lake Cora, graduated from Lawrence Public Schools, before attending LMC. He and his wife Melinda (Bower) live in San Diego. Melinda was Miss Lawrence 1968. John's grandfather, Dr. A A McNabb, was president of the Lawrence School Board for many years.

Lake Michigan College released the following statement:

Dr. John Marcelletti ('69)

Dr. John Marcelletti has made substantial contributions to the medical science fields of 1) precision medicine related to autoimmune disease and cancer diagnostic and prognostic biomarker data utilization, 2) drug invention and development leading to FDA approval and marketing by GlaxoSmithKline of Abreva®, an anti-herpes simplex virus therapeutic, and 3) regulated drug and biomarker bioanalysis using immunological and enzymatic methods in multi-national laboratory settings.

A native of Lawrence, Michigan, John began his academic journey at Lake Michigan College (LMC) in 1968. John enjoyed LMC campus life and was a member of the Phi Kappa Nu fraternity. He credits LMC with building the strong educational foundation that prepared him to move forward with his education and for success in major research institutions and biotechnology companies.

After leaving LMC, John earned a B.A. from Wayne State University (WSU), followed by a Ph.D. from the Department of Immunology and Microbiology, WSU School of Medicine. Subsequently, he earned an M.B.A. from Western Michigan University. Dr.

Marcelletti took a position in the early 80s with a start-up biotechnology company in San Diego, CA. Over approximately 35 years, he has been involved in the founding of four other biotechnology companies. Past key positions with established firms included Vice President of Large Molecule Bioanalysis (BioAgilytix San Diego, 2015-2023) and Senior Lab Director of Immunoanalytical & Cell-based Biotechnology Services (Tandem Labs San Diego, LabCorp Clinical Trials Group, 2012-2015). He is a member of several professional associations and continues to serve the biotechnology community as a scientific consultant.

John's bibliography lists over 80 scientific publications, including primary research journal articles, reviews, book chapters, and patents. Issued patents, which included co-inventors, covered the analyses of biomarkers and statistical algorithms for diagnosing and predicting outcomes in patients with inflammatory bowel disease and celiac disease. Other patents covered the methods and procedures integral to the invention, development, and FDA approval of Abreva®, a topical antiviral therapeutic for recurrent herpes simplex virus lip infections. An FDA-approved therapeutic invention is a high achievement in the biotechnology industry. Research funding for these activities was derived in part from grants from the 1) National Institutes of Health, 2) American Cancer Society, and 3) Leukemia Society of America (presently Leukemia and Lymphoma Society).

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2ND FRONT PAGE

OBITUARIES

Ruth Ellen Foster Kellogg

Memorial services for Ruth Ellen Foster Kel logg of Bloomingdale are pending. Mrs. Kel logg, 84, died peacefully at her home on Sept. 22nd.

Mrs. Kellogg was born in St. Louis, MO, on January 10, 1941, the eldest child of George J. and Dorothy Dillon Fos ter. She attended public schools in Missouri and Texas and worked for Monsanto Corp. for several years. She was a devoted homemaker to her two children, David and Leslie.

Mrs. Kellogg was pre deceased by her parents, husband Paul Kellogg, daughter Leslie Cohen, sister Carmen Ran dolph and two brothers, George (Joe) Foster and Jarrett (Jarry) Foster. She is survived by one brother John Foster of Carthage, TX, her son David Latimer and his wife Sandra of Allegan, four grandchildren, Nova and Kalee Latim er and Max and Ilana Cohen, plus numerous nieces and nephews.

Cathy Paluch

Cathy Paluch, a beloved wife, mother, grandmother (Ooma), daughter, sister, aunt, cousin, and friend who passed away peacefully surrounded by family on Sept. 30, 2025. Born Catherine Caroline Bovie on Oct. 28, 1948, in Chicago, IL. the daughter of David Bovie and Lucille (Osborn) Bovie.

After graduating from Evergreen Park High School, she started a secretarial career. On Oct. 26, 1969, she married her high school sweetheart Gary Paluch, who she met at the age of 13. They honeymooned at Holmes Resort on Three Mile Lake where Gary's family had vacationed for many years. On Aug. 22, 1971, she was blessed by the birth of her only child, Jennifer (Jen Jen).

In 1975, they moved from Evergreen Park, IL, to purchase Holmes Resort and it became known as Paluch's Resort. She managed the resort and together with her husband, they ran a successful business of seven cabins and a camping spot for 14 summers, welcoming repeat vacationers from Memorial Day through Grape and Wine Festival weekend. Even though vacationers were sad to end their week stay at the resort, they were excited for the sendoff from the final Friday night bonfire where Cathy's beautiful voice was a highlight alongside Gary's singing and guitar playing. Every week their much-anticipated final song was "They Call the Wind Maria". When Cathy sang "Maaa-rye-eeeah" her voice seemed to echo over the lake. Every New Year's Eve, the phone would be taken off the hook and would be hung back up at 8 a.m. New Year's Day. The phone would ring immediately, and Cathy would spend her day at her desk in the back room of the house taking reservations for the upcoming summer from non-stop phone calls. The repeat vacationers became more than customers; some became very close friends. They would end the season with a pig roast that was enjoyed by family and friends.

In 1986, she and her family moved to Eagle Pass, TX, for a new opportunity in life. After three eventful years of making new friends and memories they decided to move back to Paw Paw to build a dream home where two of the cabins on the resort once stood. Throughout the years Cathy continued her secretarial career for several local businesses like Red Arrow Animal Clinic, Musselman's Applesauce and Bronson Paw Paw facility. On New Year's Day 2000, she remarried her husband, Gary. That same year she welcomed her first grandson Joseph "Joey" Gary Ujka who she taught to say "Ooooo-ooooma", thus Ooma became her official name. In 2022, she welcomed her second grandson, Eric "E-rock" Ujka. Ooma and her boys had many adventures having fun and being silly.

Cathy was blessed with a life full of adventures. Even surviving five heart surgeries, she kept on truckin' along. She loved animals and had many pets she would give her heart and soul to. Cathy had many hobbies through the years like bowling, fishing, camping, crafts, cross stitch, feeding the hummingbirds and orioles, gardening, spending time with friends and family, and mostly crocheting. During retirement she enjoyed the Paw Paw Senior Citizen Club where she would crochet hats for cancer patients with her friends. She also cherished her view of Three Mile Lake. When the sun would hit the water just right, she would say "Her diamonds on the lake were sparkling!"

Cathy is survived by her loving husband, Gary Paluch; cherished daughter, Jennifer Paluch; adored grandsons, Joseph (Alex Schultz) Ujka and Eric Ujka. Her earliest memories will live on with through the love she had and received from her siblings David (Carol) Bovie, Patty (Richard) Moir, and Marie Bovie. Her love and laughter will be missed by all, including caring and fun-loving cousins Skip (Judy) Lubinski, as well as many nieces and nephews, great-nieces and nephews, cousins, and friends.

Following a long and blessed life, we can look at the stars and know she will be welcomed into heaven with the open arms of our Lord, family, dear friends, and loved pets. "Perhaps they are not stars, but rather openings in heaven where the love of our lost ones pours through and shines down upon us to let us know they are happy." She would always tell Jennifer, Joey, and Eric "I love you up to the sky and down again and all around the world!" As the sun sets, we know that Cathy is at peace now knowing she loved fully, will be remembered with love, and is still loved unconditionally with her final words that were for Gary - "I love you too."

Family and friends are invited to her celebration of life on Saturday, Oct. 25, 2025, from 1 to 4 p.m. at Adams Funeral Home, 502 W. Michigan Ave., Paw Paw.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating in Cathy's name to the American Heart Association, Leukemia Lymphoma Society, Make-A-Wish, or your local animal shelter.

Share a memory or sign the online guestbook at adamspawpaw.com

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PPFD responds to cornfield fire

The Paw Paw Fire Department was dispatched Saturday, Oct. 18, at 1:27 p.m. for a field fire that was approaching a semi-truck and grain trailer. Arriving at the scene, at 1:31 p.m., at the corner of County Road 653 and 48th Avenue, in Almena Township, firefighters found approximately an acre cornfield on fire. Paw Paw Fire Chief Kyle Richardson said the fire had spread underneath the semi and grain trailer. Richardson said the fire had spread quickly due to dry and windy conditions but was quickly extinguished. A total of 19 firefighters responded to the call. Richardson said the fire is believed to have started from burning debris that spread into the field. Firefighters remained at the scene until approximately 2 p.m. Courier-Leader photo/Paul Garrod

Four occupants safe as trailer engulfed by flames

Four occupants in a trailer safely evacuated when fire swept across the structure early Thursday morning.

The fire at 21980 M-140 Highway, South Haven Township, was reported at 4:08 a.m.

Firefighters from South Haven Area Emergency Services (SHAES), Covert Township and Bangor Community responded.

The trailer was totally engulfed in flames upon arrival. The occupants had safely evacuated.

Fire fighters limited damage to a nearby unoccupied trailer. The cause remains under investigation. The most intense damage appeared to be in the area of a floor electric heater.

Ghouls, goblins and more spotted in South Haven

Photographer Tom Renner spotted these cool Halloween decorations around South Haven. City of South Haven trick-or-treat hours are on Friday, Oct. 31, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Village of Paw Paw enacts camping ordinance

PAW PAW - The Village of Paw Paw recently enacted a camping ordinance intended to improve the safety of public property in the village, reduce the effects of trash and blight, and help make it easier to address trespassers who take advantage of vacant or unmonitored private property.

The new ordinance makes it a misdemeanor to establish a campsite on public property in the village, or use makeshift materials to erect a temporary lean-to, shack or other structure. It also prohibits sleeping on public property in a tent, vehicle, sleeping bag or other bedding.

The ordinance does not affect residents who camp on private property with the permission of the owners for less than two weeks at a time. People who camp on private property without permission could be subject to enforcement.

"The Village of Paw Paw has had an ongoing problem with people erecting crude campsites on secluded areas of village property, and leaving big messes behind when they leave," Village Manager Bryan Myrkle said. "Then the village has to spend time and resources cleaning up these areas." He said that village residents have also complained about feeling unsafe in public parks when people are found sleeping in pavilions or in bathrooms. "We want Paw Paw residents and families to be able to use our parks comfortably in the way they are intended."

"It is not just the mess left behind," said Paw Paw Police Chief Eric Rottman. "The activities that go on at these sites are not safe for the people staying there nor for those who happen upon them unsuspectingly." Rottman said they have responded to complaints of assault, theft and other illegal activity associated with the encampments.

Rottman stressed that while the ordinance has been in effect for several months, no one has yet been cited or arrested for illegal camping. "People tend to move on once they've been informed of the ordinance." He said that resources related to homelessness and other similar types of assistance are provided to campsite occupants when appropriate.

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Commissioners approve FOC staff to attend workshop

By Paul Garrod
Staff Writer
news4garrod@gmail.com

PAW PAW - On Oct. 14, Van Buren County Commissioners approved a request for out-of-state travel for designated Friend of the Court (FOC) staff to attend the 2025 Midwest Border Training Workshop on Nov. 18-19, in Middlebury, IN.

The workshop will be held at the Das Dutchman Essenhaus Inn & Conference Center, 240 US-20, Middlebury. It will focus on intergovernmental and interstate child support practices and procedures. The workshop will include participation and presentations from child support professionals representing the states of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Kentucky, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin, offering valuable and regionally specific training related to the unique complexities of interstate child support cases.

Commissioners said attendance at the training will support FOC staff in efficiently handling complex intergovernmental cases, promoting improved outcomes for Van Buren County families. Veronica Stillson (Deputy FOC), Amanda Hoefle, and Abbie Jones-VanHeukelum (Interstate Case Manager), are all registered to attend.

All associated travel costs, including mileage and meals, are budgeted within existing departmental funds, and no hotel accommodation will be required.

Commissioners approved the appointment of Susan Barnes to fill a vacancy on the Van Buren Community Mental Health (VBCMH) Board of Directors.

The VBCMH Board submitted a formal recommendation to appoint Barnes to fill the vacant position, with a term starting Oct. 14, and ending March 31, 2028. Barnes previously served on the VBCMH Board of Directors from 2007 to 2024, during which she demonstrated exceptional leadership and dedication, including serving as Board Chairperson and as the VBCMH representative to the Southwest Michigan Behavioral Health (SWMBH) Board.

Commissioners said she is a retired special education teacher who expressed her willingness and availability to resume service on the VBCMH Board and received full endorsement from the current board.

Michigan law requires Community Mental Health Boards to include representation from individuals who are recipients or family members of recipients of mental health services and requires compliance with federal regulations restricting oversight of Medicaid funds by individuals on the federal exclusion list.

Commissioners approved a request for the disposal of a drone that was purchased in 2018 for the purpose of field tracking, with the intent to use auction proceeds to reduce the cost of acquiring more practical replacement equipment.

The current drone, originally purchased for $19,582.20, required 15 to 20 minutes for deployment, making it less suitable for urgent response and rapid deployment situations.

The Sheriff's Office identified an opportunity to auction the existing drone with an expected return of approximately $5,000, which will be applied toward the purchase of two smaller, faster-deploying drones that better meet operational needs. The estimated cost of the two replacement drones is $27,000.

The Van Buren County Sheriff's Office also submitted a request to dispose of a golf cart that is no longer practical or cost-effective to maintain. The golf cart was historically used for parades, fairs, and similar community events, but has since become underutilized and increasingly costly to repair and maintain. The Sheriff's Office determined it is no longer reasonable to continue investing in the upkeep of the unit.

Commissioners approved several bids from the county's Buildings & Grounds Department for snow removal services for the 2025–2026 winter season, covering 14 county-owned locations. A total of five qualified bids were received and reviewed by the Buildings & Grounds Director, John Small. The total cost for the 2025–2026 snow removal season is $63,850, representing a modest one percent increase from the $63,150 spent during the 2024-2025 season.

Commissioners also approved a request from Small to install holiday lighting and decorations at various County facilities for the 2025 holiday season. In 2023, the Village of Paw Paw Downtown Development Authority donated holiday lights and decorations for use at the Courthouse and County Park, and these will be reused along with supplemental decorations provided by the county.

The installation will be completed by Buildings & Grounds staff on a Saturday in late November or early December, with staff voluntarily donating their time to perform the work, resulting in no additional cost to the county.

Van Buren County Commissioners approved a grant that was recently awarded to Van Buren, Berrien and Cass counties from the State Court Administrative Office (SCAO) for $5,250.00. The grant supports services including supervised parenting time, parenting time mediation, and custody mediation to assist families involved in domestic relations matters.

Van Buren County is designated as the reporting agency and fiscal agent for this joint award and is responsible for managing the receipt and distribution of funds. The grant provides critical support to the 36th Circuit Court in meeting its obligations under Michigan law to promote the best interests of children through alternative dispute resolution and structured parenting time arrangements.

St. Julian building mural completed

St. Julian Winery & Distillery, Paw Paw, recently teamed up with Patrick Jay Hersberger to paint a mural, featuring vibrant designs inspired by some of the winery's own bottles. Courier-Leader photo/Paul Garrod

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VIEWPOINT

Why Michigan Should Say "No" to Ranked-Choice Voting

As Michigan stands at a crossroad on whether to adopt Ranked-Choice Voting (RCV) statewide, voters and policymakers ought to pause and ask: what problem is RCV truly solving — and at what cost? The case against this change is stronger than many realize, especially here in our state.

One of the first and most serious concerns is the increased complexity for voters. Under RCV, instead of simply marking a preferred candidate, voters must rank candidates in order of preference. Proponents argue this gives more choice. But for many voters, this introduces a new layer of confusion — especially when mixed with Michigan's already lengthy ballots covering federal, state, county, township, school, and special-district races.

The Michigan Association of County Clerks, a bipartisan group of election administrators, unanimously opposed the ballot measure this year, citing "inconsistency, voter confusion, voter fatigue" and the fact that "Michigan voters already face some of the longest and most complex ballots in the nation."

The association further worries that adding RCV to only some contests — while other races remain under the current system — will heighten confusion. What we risk is a system where a portion of voters perhaps unintentionally mis-fill ballots or simply feel alienated by the complexity.

Timeliness matters. Michigan voters are accustomed to receiving a sense of the outcome on election night. With RCV's multi-round counting and reallocation of ballots, the winner may not be known for days. That delay creates fertile ground for doubt, speculation, and a weakening of public confidence in the electoral process.

For instance, Alaska is one of the few states that offers rank choice voting. Their election results seem to always take several days to tabulate and their population is one-sixth the size of Michigan. I can't imagine how long it would take to determine results here.

County clerks agree saying it would take drastically longer" to determine winners, a delay that "erodes the public's trust by fueling uncertainty and misinformation." In a state as politically pivotal as Michigan, we cannot ignore the fact that timely transparency is part of maintaining legitimacy.

It's not just the initial count — the process of audits and recounts under RCV becomes more complex. Instead of a simple tally of ballots, there are rounds of elimination and reallocation. That makes transparent verification harder. Some critics argue that RCV poses risks to auditability. If our system becomes more complicated without adding clear benefits, we are introducing unnecessary risk.

"Ballot exhaustion" is the term for when a voter's ranked choices are all eliminated in successive rounds — leaving their vote uncounted in the final tally. Some research suggests this phenomenon occurs with greater frequency under RCV. Opponents argue that this undercuts majority rule and could disenfranchise voters who do not rank many candidates — a demographic that may include less engaged voters or those from disadvantaged communities.

Michigan's election infrastructure already bears unique challenges: long ballots, fragmented jurisdictions, and an electorate used to a relatively straightforward "choose one" vote. Introducing RCV could overwhelm not just voters, but election officials and clerks trying to administer the system.

The Michigan clerks' association specifically cited conflicts with existing state law and the Michigan Constitution as reasons for opposition. They argue that the proposed constitutional amendment to permit RCV would require sweeping change across many election-process rules – a heavy lift with significant risk.

Proponents of RCV say it gives more voice to voters, promotes more moderate candidates, and reduces "spoiler" problems. But the evidence is more mixed. Choosing a more complex system does not guarantee more representative outcomes. In fact, it could do just the opposite. It is possible a winner could be announced without a majority of the electorate voting for that person.

I harken back to Alaska. In the last U.S. Senate campaign, the winner of the Republican primary lost to the incumbent in the general election. That wouldn't have happened if RCV hadn't been in place. The incumbent would have been eliminated in the primary.

Amendments to how we vote should be made with great care. Michigan does not lack for opportunities to improve our existing electoral processes — auditing, reducing ballot length, improving voter education, modernizing equipment — without completely upending the voting method. If the current system is flawed, throwing in RCV adds risk rather than certainty.

At a time when trust in elections is fragile, Michigan should not rush into adopting ranked-choice voting statewide. The added complexity for voters, the delays and uncertainties in counts, the audit and recount risks, and the potential for disenfranchisement are all serious concerns. Without a clear guarantee of improved outcomes — and given the specific context of Michigan's election system — the prudent choice is to maintain the current system, focus on improving what already works, and avoid the unintended consequences of change.

MIKE'S MUSINGS

MIKE WILCOX
■ PUBLISHER ■

Bangor Twp. man, convicted sex offender, to be extradited to Ohio

"Detectives from our Westside Detachment (It's a newly formed unit in conjunction with our Detective Unit, Covert Twp. detective, and a South Haven Police Department detective) worked with detectives from the Defiance Police Department out of Ohio," said Van Buren County Sheriff Daniel Abbott.

The investigation revealed a 38-year-old Bangor Township man was using social media to engage in inappropriate communications and share explicit material with an individual he believed to be a 12-year-old boy. "The suspect was a previous convicted sex offender and was in violation of not registering properly with his current address," said Sheriff Abbott.

A search warrant was obtained and executed at the residence in question. "Several electronic and communication devices were seized, and the suspect was taken into custody on the outstanding felony warrant for his SOR Violation in our county. He is currently lodged and will be extradited to Ohio once his charges are done here," said Sheriff Abbott.

Van Buren County Sheriff's Office Uniform Response handled several larcenies from motor vehicles in the Gravel Lake area in Porter Township. A jeep was recovered in the area that was stolen out of Kalamazoo. "An Audi station wagon with the keys left in it was stolen from the area and ended up in Kalamazoo after they committed the crimes," said Sheriff Abbott.

Uniform Response handled a larceny of a Dewalt drill in the northern area of the Paw Paw Village Limits. "Deputies located the suspect and lodged him for the incident. It appears that the individual is a homeless guy living in the area," said Sheriff Abbott.

Uniform Response handled a domestic violence call in the Village of Lawrence. "The investigation found that a grandson punched his grandmother who graciously allows him to live at her residence. He was lodged for the incident," said Sheriff Abbott.

Uniform Response handled a domestic violence call in Almena Township. "It was found that the pregnant victim had an argument with her boyfriend, and he shoved her into the wall, punched her, then left the residence. Deputies were able to get her the medical attention required and are still actively searching for the suspect," said Sheriff Abbott.

"Kayce Gleesing has been hired to work in our Dispatch Center. Kayce comes from a pro law enforcement family, and we couldn't be more excited to have her here as a part of our family/team," said Sheriff Abbott.

Uniform Response handled a suspicious situation at the Marathon gas station at the south limits of Paw Paw Village. "The call came in about a male subject in a vehicle parked at a gas pump with the accelerator stuck. Deputies made contact with the subject, and it was immediately obvious that he had consumed alcohol. The driver was arrested for operating under the influence of alcohol with his result being roughly over three times the legal limit. This also occurred during the day during normal business hours," said Sheriff Abbott.

Uniform Response handled a larceny incident in Hartford Township. Several tools and a welder were stolen. "The items were able to be tracked due to a GPS type unit on one of the items stolen," said Sheriff Abbott. A search warrant was conducted at a residence in Hartford and stolen items were recovered. The suspect was not there when the search warrant was executed but was later located. He was lodged and now faces several charges for the incident.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Brown deserves to be re-elected mayor

Dear Editor:

Why I have ANNIE BROWN for MAYOR signs in my yard yet live in the Township. What happens in the city affects Township residents. I am a Trustee on the Township Board and serve on the South Haven Area Recreation Authority (SHARA). "SHARA is responsible for acquiring, constructing, operating, & improving parks within the jurisdictional limits". This means both the city & township of South Haven. I have serious concerns about this upcoming election.

Annie Brown from the beginning was supportive of our parks & also understood the vision of the future. She understands that to attract families, activities & parks play an important role in their decision to live in South Haven. Annie was supportive of the city residents voting on a recreation millage that would also include hiring a Recreation Director. She understood from the start that the role of a community Recreation Director was totally different from the public school's Athletic Director. Annie taught in the public schools & has raised a family & understands the challenges many families (children, adults, seniors) face as they try to coordinate after-school activities with the limited number of athletic fields & numerous sport groups wanting to play on whatever field is available. When the city council voted to release the funds (as the people voted to approve the millage & subsequently paid it). Annie understood that it needed to be passed quickly so that someone could be hired and activities could start for the summer. She voted yes on both dates it was presented. Annie voted yes as she represents her constituents. She understands families and their need to coordinate activities to help with their children's social skill set as well as aiding in cognitive functions. Annie cares.

Respect, honesty, and integrity are qualities that I have seen Annie display. That is why I have her signs in my yard.

Maureen Lewandowski

Support Hosley, Krupiarz in SH

Dear Editor:

I proudly support and endorse Mary Hosley for Mayor of South Haven and Lisa Krupiarz as City Council, Ward 1. Both candidates know our community and have the well-being of the residents at heart. Both candidates have been involved in our city by attending meetings, volunteering for positions with organizations and are aware of the challenges we face. Both candidates just want consistency in enforcing our laws and ordinances. Both candidates just want what is fair for one, is fair for all, regardless of person, family history or money making the request.

Our mayor and council members need to be independent thinkers and consider the whole community (residents and businesses), when evaluating issues coming before them. Their vote should be yay or nay based on what is best overall for the community, not because they are friends with, draw paychecks from, or fear offending/not supporting someone. Both Mary and Lisa are those candidates…….

Both Mary and Lisa K could easily sit back and enjoy their retirements, but they care about our neighbors and our community. Honestly, the dirty politics being played is disgusting, embarrassing and reminds me of grade school and bullies on the playground. I thought we were grown-up adults. I urge you to watch some city council meetings. Is this how we should act, treat others and conduct business? South Haven is the talk of SW Michigan…… our politics has circulated and made the news – are you proud of this? I love South Haven but I am disappointed in the reputation our city is earning. One could ask – if not happy, do something about it. What do you think Mary and Lisa are doing?

I urge you to vote for Mary Hosley for Mayor of South Haven and Lisa K for City Council, Ward 1. I know I am. Both candidates are looking out for and will work for you.

Linda Schubel

Reasons why Hosley should be mayor

Dear Editor:

My wife and I support Mary Hosley for mayor of South Haven. Her direct manner, attention to detail, relentless fact finding, and determination to cut through the bloated bureaucracy of South Haven City Hall are the reasons for this. We may not agree with her on every issue facing the city but we are confident Mary will do what is best for the residents of our town.

Kurt Haller

Vote for Brown to continue as mayor

Dear Editor,

I have known Annie for decades through our political work. She has helped me with several issues within the city, besides her campaign work. I know I can trust her to do what she says. As we all know, trust is more important in politics than ever. As Mayor of South Haven she has made improvements in our city, but what I like best is being able to call her when I have an issue with the city. She has always supported me (which probably means we agree on many issues.

It's a real balancing act managing our city with short-term rentals, the festivals, keeping the permanent residents happy, and making our visitors welcome. Annie has managed this with her happy continence and her willingness to speak her mind.

A vote for Annie is a vote calm management with a great personality.

Judith Stimson

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Addition completed to Almena Township Hall

A new 1,300-square-foot addition has been added to the Almena Township Hall. Construction started in April and was completed earlier this month. The addition will have two additional rooms that will be used for elections, a storage room and a bathroom, according to Almena Township Supervisor Joe Leduc. In addition, the building's exterior received a new coat of paint, and a new roof was placed. In addition, the parking lot was repaved. Total cost of the new addition was $421,000 and was paid for by the township's building fund. Additional funds were used to complete the new roof and repaint the building's exterior. The project was completed by Cornerstone. The township hall was constructed in 2004. Courier-Leader photos/Paul Garrod

Blue Star Mothers hold "Shop for the Troops"

The Blue Star Mothers of Southwest MI 179 expressed its thanks to everyone who came out Saturday in support of Shop for the Troops Day at Family Fare, Paw Paw. "We filled the back of a pickup truck with boxed up donated items to go in our Holiday Care packages," said Laura De Roo, a member of Blue Star Mothers of Southwest Michigan 179 . "We are also thankful for the donated funds that will aid us in shipping the items to our deployed service members," De Roo. The group is still seeking addresses of deployed service members. Those addresses may be sent to: president.mi179@bluestarmothers.us or mailed to: Blue Star Mothers, P.O. Box 406, Paw Paw, MI, 49079 Deadline for addresses is Nov. 1.

Riverwoods Property now officially owned by SHARA

SOUTH HAVEN - The South Haven Area Recreation Authority (SHARA) announced this week the official acquisition of the Riverwoods property, a 50-acre site located in South Haven Township along the Black River and Kal-Haven Trail. With the sale now finalized, SHARA will move forward with plans to develop the land into a new public recreation space for the South Haven community.

"This is a huge moment for the South Haven area," said Ross Stein, SHARA board chair. "We've taken a site with a complex past and secured its future as a recreational space for the community - permanently."

Originally acquired by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) in 2012, the Riverwoods site has a varied history, including use as a peach orchard and an unfinished residential development. SHARA began working with the DNR in 2023 to acquire the land under the state's Land Exchange and Sale program - a process requiring extensive coordination and a formal commitment to long-term public use. SHARA acquired the property at just 25% of its fair market value, reflecting both the public purpose of the project and strong collaboration between local and state partners.

As part of the agreement, the property will continue to be permanently deed-restricted for outdoor recreation, ensuring it will never be used for commercial development or other non-recreational purposes.

Initial site planning and preparation are already underway. Future phases will focus on expanding public access and amenities while preserving the site's natural features. One anticipated highlight includes the relocation of a portion of the historic Nichols Covered Bridge, which will be installed as a centerpiece of the park's trail system. A section of the bridge was preserved through the efforts of Visit South Haven, which has also committed to financing its relocation to Riverwoods and to matching funds for a grant to replace the fishing pier, relocate the pavilion, and add a kayak launch to the site.

"Initial financial support for the Riverwoods project has come from the Department of Natural Resources, SHARA, and Visit South Haven," said Ross Stein, SHARA board chair. "That funding will help us begin site work, and additional fundraising is underway to support key features in the first phase of development. The Riverwoods project also advances priorities identified in the South Haven Parks and Recreation Master Plan, offering an opportunity to expand recreational access and develop key amenities that community members have consistently voiced support for.

"The groundwork is laid, and momentum is building," said Jennifer Sistrunk, Executive Director of Visit South Haven. "We've built strong community support and engaged passionate local advocates who are already fundraising for key features. This is a win for our residents, for outdoor recreation, and for long-term placemaking in the South Haven area."

The DNR, which facilitated the transfer of the site, emphasized the importance of the long-term partnership. "The Riverwoods project is a great example of what happens when local and state partners come together with a shared vision for outdoor access," said Chief Kristen Kosick with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. In addition to facilitating the transfer of the property, the DNR has also committed $200,000 in grant funding to help kick off development at the site. "We're proud to support SHARA and the South Haven community in creating a space that will benefit generations to come."

Trinity Lutheran School celebrates 40th Grandparents/Special Persons Day

On Friday, Oct. 17, Trinity Lutheran School, Paw Paw, celebrated its 40th Grandparents/ Special Persons Day. With 140 in attendance, grandparents and special persons were treated to a luncheon provided by La Cantina, City Barbeque, and Olive Garden. Following lunch, students in kindergarten – fifth grade participated in a chapel service with Gospel readings, prayers, and a medley of songs. The day ended with guests visiting classrooms Courier-Leader photos/ Paul Garrod

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Bangor soccer boys earn district title

Bangor boys soccer team celebrated the district title last week.

By John Raffel
Correspondent

BANGOR — The Bangor boys' soccer team delivered yet another dramatic finish, storming back in the final minutes to claim a new district championship last week in a hard-fought 4–3 victory over Marcellus Howardsville.

Howardsville too an early lead, but Giovani Soriano-Ramirez responded quickly to make it 1-1. In the second half, Carlos Villalobos gave Bangor the lead with a strong finish, only for Marcellus to fight back with two unanswered goals — putting the Eagles ahead 3–2 with just 10 minutes remaining.

But the Vikings came back.

Villalobos notched his second goal of the night to tie the game at 3–3, setting the stage for an exciting finish. With just three minutes left on the clock, Soriano-Ramirez came through in the clutch, scoring the game-winning goal for Bangor.

Both Soriano-Ramirez and Villalobos finished with two goals each, leading the Vikings to their second district title ever.

The Vikings were set to be at Portage Northern High School to face New Buffalo in the Regional Semifinals this week.

Paw Paw blanks Three Rivers

Coach Dennis Strey's Paw Paw football team is 5-3.

By John Raffel

PAW PAW — Paw Paw improved to 5-1 in the Wolverine Conference and 5-3 overall with a 43-0 win over Three Rivers (2-4, 4-4) on Friday.

Ben Miller had touchdown runs of 15, 4 and 65 yards in the first half and 23 yards in the third quarter.

Elias Sonneberg had a 1-yard scoring run in the third. JJ Varney had a 24-yard scoring scampi in the fourth.

Pat Gould kicked five PATs Miller had a two-point run.'

Miller had 200 yards rushing.

Ben Newell had five solo tackles and four assist, Eli Sonne berburg had six solos and two assists, Justin Ackerman had three solos and five assists. Tayler Kruizenga had three solos and four assists.

Paw Paw is home with Vicksburg on Oct. 24.

South Haven 31, Allegan 0

South Haven is 3-2 in the league and 4-4 overall after this Friday win.

Mattawan boys take sixth

By John Raffel

The Mattawan boys were sixth and the girls seventh out of nine teams competing on Oct. 18 in the SMAC cross country championship meet.

Kalamazoo central won the boys at 45 while Loy Norris was second at 93 and Portage Central was third at 95.

Portage Central won. the girls with 33, followed by St. Joseph at 69, Loy Norris at 97 and Gull Lake at 108.

For the Mattawan boys, Marcel Stork was fifth at 16:0273, Owen Fisher sixth at 16:05.99, Tanner Christensen 33rd at 17:42.2, Trevor Nagra 34th at 17:43.85 and Braeden Gildea at 18:08.52.

For the Mattawan girls, Kate Barron was 22nd (21:24.25), Natalie Barron 38th (22:27.11), Claire Yakiwchuk 39th (22:36.59), Tana Drobeck 43rd (22:55.28), Adel Sebestova 50th (23:32.55) and Julie Navratilova 64th (25:42.62).

Mattawan will run on Oct. 25 at the Portage Central region with hopes to qualifying for the state finals either as a team or individuals.

Lawton too much for Saugatuck

By John Raffel
Correspondent

LAWTON — Lawton's football team improved to 5-3 on Friday with a 56-17 win against Saugatuck (2-4).

Lawton had quarter leads of 21-3, 42-3 and 48-3. Lawton was outscored 56-17 in the final quarter'

In the first quarter Caiden Mitchell had touchdown runs of 6 and 1 yards for Lawton. Greyson Burrows had a 50-yard touchdown run.

Saugatuck had a 34-yard field goal.

In the second quarter Lawton had scoring runs of 17 yards from Hudson Merriman and 2 yards from Brady Quick. Tyler McCartney had a 30-yard TD pass catch from Brady Quick.

McCartney had a 77-yard run in the third quarter and a 73-yard run in the fourth.

Mason Leslie had a 15-yard run for Lawton for another TD.

Lawton had a 511-223 lead in total yards and 19-13 in first downs.

Quick passed for 32 yards. McCartney ran for 150 yards on two carries. Wyatt Streeter had 94 yards. Burrows rushed for 78 yards. Owen Matthies had 67 yards rushing on three carries.

Gobles picks up sixth football win

By John Raffel
Correspondent

GOBLES — The Gobles Tigers delivered another impressive performance Friday night, overwhelming Wyoming Lee 71-6 in a non-conference matchup "that showcased their physicality and relentless run game," coach Greg Eichler said.

Gobles' offense piled up 613 total yards, including 429 rushing yards, while holding Wyoming-Lee to just 144 yards of offense and only 4 rushing yards.

"The Tigers scored touchdowns on nearly every possession, using explosive runs and a stifling defense to put the game away early," Eichler said.

Senior Steven Juarez led the offensive onslaught, tallying 96 rushing yards on just three carries — including a 60-plus yard touchdown burst — and completing two passes for 35 yards. He also contributed on defense with an interception and two pass breakups.

Running back Nathan Ray found the end zone twice, averaging over 22 yards per carry and adding a 2-point conversion. Fellow backs Coal Otis (95 yards, 1 TD) and Danny Timms (44 yards, 1 TD) joined the scoring parade, while Devin Doorlag broke free for a 43-yard touchdown of his own.

"In all, eight different Tigers scored touchdowns, emphasizing Gobles' balanced and unselfish attack," Eichler said. "Through the air, Gobles was efficient when needed — completing 3 of 6 passes for 61 yards. Aiden Beam was the leading receiver with 58 yards on two catches, including several chain-moving plays off play action.

"The defense was equally dominant, forcing four takeaways and limiting Wyoming-Lee to just 1-of-8 on third downs. Hunter Piper and Juarez both intercepted passes, with Piper's return going for a touchdown. Ray and Zach Conner each recovered fumbles, while Conner added a sack and a forced fumble as part of a disruptive night in the trenches.

Defensive lineman Thomas Burrell contributed 1.5 sacks and multiple tackles for loss, helping the Tigers hold Lee's rushing attack to negative yardage until late in the fourth quarter."

Gobles improves to 6-2, "continuing their strong season and looking to finish strong before they begin an anticipated playoff run.

"The Tigers will look to carry their momentum into next week's matchup against Twin City as postseason play draws near," Eichler said.

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South Haven soccer

By John Raffel
Correspondent

SOUTH HAVEN — Coach Sandy Bautisa's South Haven boys soccer team won a district title last week.

The title match on Oct. 15 was at Comstock Park High School.

"Noah Weaver scored the only goal off a great assist from Leif boreal," Bautista said. "Defensively we did well to not concede and then we were able to get the winning goal in the last six minutes of the game.

"South Haven had not won a district for over 10 years so this was great to break that, especially against. Tough opponent like Fennville, which has had our number in recent years. This brings great belief to the group and now we're excited to play the regional semifinal (Oct. 21 vs. NorthPoint Christian at Fennville High School."

South Haven has a 15-4-4 record.

The Rams are on a four-match win streak. It started the last game of the regular season 4-1 over Kalamazoo Hackett Catholic Prep and continued with a 3–0 run in districts. The first two wins were 6-0 over Comstock and 3-2 over Paw Paw.

Paw Paw volleyballers impressive

By John Raffel
Correspondent

PAW PAW — Paw Paw's volleyball team is 8-15-1 but has been playing impressive lately.

The Wolves had wins of 25-16, 25-20 over Holland Black River and 25-21, 25-8 over Fennville in recent tournament action.

"The Paw Paw Volleyball team continues to impress as the season pushes forward showing growth, determination, and energy," coach Haley Rock said. "From the first practice of the season to the most recent matches, the Red Wolves have displayed a new level of intensity and aggressiveness on the court that has us continuing to battle and compete against the tough Wolverine Conference.

"The team's scrappy defense and serve receive has led us to be able to run a smooth offense and use smart game play to chip away, one at a time. (points) Every girl on the team is working hard, improving and contributing to working for success both on and off the court/

" Senior Breslyn Zache brings an aggressive swing on the outside, being fed by setter, Raegan Zache who brings hustle and is an aggressive asset in both back and front row- with smart set choices, multiple blocks per game and a scrappy defense."

South Haven golfers enjoy historic season

By John Raffel

Barry Shanley was coach for a South Haven girls golf squad which had an historic season.

SAC Conference Tournament was today...and then I was supposed to work concessions at a volleyball tournament.

Earlier this month, South Haven, playing in its final conference jamboree of 2025 ended its Divisional Season by being crowned as divisional champions for the first time in school history.

"We defeated the six other divisional girls golf teams with a 10-stroke margin over the second-place team, Cassopolis," Shanley said.

The event was at Pipestone Golf Club hosted by Berrien Springs with the following team scores: South Haven 204; Cassopolis 214; Dowagiac 217; Berrien Springs 229]; Michigan Lutheran 236; Niles Brandywine 246

South Haven scores:

Gwen Meyer 47 (2nd out of 42 players); Faith Spies 49; Chloe Vanlandingham 51. Lyne Badenhorst 57

At the SAC Conference 18-Hole Tournament at Cheshire Hills Golf Club, hosted by Allegan, South Haven finished second out of 12 teams, to be SAC Conference Runner-Up for 2025.

Team scores: Kalamazoo Christian 374; South Haven 391; Dowagiac 415; Cassopolis 428; Kalamazoo Hackett 443; Berrien Springs 471; Michigan Lutheran 478Schoolcraft DNF; Comstock DNF; Niles Brandywine 517 Parchment DNF'Allegan DNF

South Haven Scores:

Faith Spies 89 (3rd out of 75 players); Chloe Vanlandingham 94; Lyne Badenhorst 100; Gwen Meyer 108

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I SAW IT IN THE FLASHES

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS, TRUST ESTATE TO ALL CREDITORS:
The Settlor, **Jean E. Tucker** (date of birth) October 28, 1946 (10/28/1946) , who lived at 60599-24th Avenue, Bangor Michigan, died September 25, 2025. There is no personal representative of the settlor's estate to whom Letters of Administration have been issued. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the **The Tucker Revocable Living Trust Trust dated, April 17, 2019** as amended, will be forever banned unless presented to **Jeffrey L. Tucker** Successor Trustee, within four months after the date of publication.
Notice is further given that the Trust will thereafter be assigned and distributed to the persons entitled to it.
October 19, 2025
Successor Trustee Signature
Jeffrey L. Tucker
8809 Burnell Drive
Eau Claire, WI 54703
(715)575-3208

State of Michigan
Probate Court
Van Buren County
Notice to Creditors
DECEDENT'S ESTATE
Estate of
MARY EMMA ARNOLD,
Deceased,

TO ALL CREDITORS:
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, **Mary Emma Arnold, died June 10,2025 (6/10/2025).** Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to **Jeremy Rebenstorf** personal representative, or to both the probate court at **212 E. Paw Paw Street, Suite 220, Paw Paw, MI 49079** and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
October 20, 2025
Attorney:
Sumita Nagpal P67828
405 W. Michigan Ave.,
Ste 103
Kalamazoo, MI 49007
269-743-7779
Personal Representative:
Jeremy Rebenstrof
23970 44th Ave.,
Mattawan, MI 49071
269-568-3914

State of Michigan
Probate Court
County of Van Buren
PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF HEARING
File No. 2025-1159-DE
In the matter of
STEPHEN P. KOENIG,
deceased
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS including:
Elizabeth Amstein, James Koenig, David Koenig, Kathleen Koenig, Daniel Koenig,
and Unknown Heirs whose address(es) are unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following:
TAKE NOTICE: A hearing will be held on **November 6,2025 at 10:30 a.m.** at Van Buren County Probate Court before Judge Susan Metzger #P62867 for the following purpose:
Petition for Probate and/ or Appointment of Personal Representative
October 7,2025
Attorney
Nicole M. Laruwe #P75562
7 West Square Lake Road
Bloomingfield Hills, MI 48302
248-648-1148
Petitioner
Cynthia Frankfort
1225 Luther Lane, Unit 103
Arlington Heights, IL 60004

State of Michigan
36th Judicial Circuit - Family Division
Van Buren County
Publication of Hearing
Notice to Putative Father
Case No.25020197-NA
Petition No.
Judge Jeffrey Dufon
IN THE MATTER OF:
DARRELL STADLER
TAKE NOTICE: Father of Darrell Stadler
A petition has been filed with this court regarding the following minor(s):
Darell Stadler who was Born January 28,2023 (1/28/2023) at Shelby, North Carolina.
The mother of the minor(s) is Ashley Lynn Miller. If you are or may be the natural father, you should appear at Courtroom 2, 212 E. Paw Paw St., Paw Paw, MI 49079 on November 18,2025 (11/18/2025) at 1:00pm to state any interest you may have in the minor(s).
Failure to appear at this hearing is a denial of interest in the minor(s), waiver of notice for all subsequent hearings, and a waiver of a right to appointment of an attorney. Failure to appear at this hearing **COULD RESULT IN PERMANENT TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS.**

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Gerrit Peter Oppenhuizen; Atty: QUINTAIROS PRIETO WOOD & BOYER - QUINTAIROS PRIETO WOOD & BOYER; 1st Pub: 10/2/2025; Atty File #: MI-005529; Insurer: (unknown)
NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT THE NUMBER BELOW IF YOU ARE IN ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY. ATTN PURCHASERS: This sale may be rescinded by the foreclosing mortgagee. In that event, your damages, if any, shall be limited solely to return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest. NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT: Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 P.M., on November 20, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE SALE: Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Gerrit Peter Oppenhuizen a/k/a Gerrit P. Oppenhuizen, the original Mortgagor; and Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems Inc., as nominee for Amerifirst Financial Corporation, the original Mortgagee; dated May 16, 2016, and recorded on May 18, 2016, in Liber 1636, at Page 341, in Van Buren County Records, Michigan; and last assigned to Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC, the Foreclosing Assignee; as documented by an Assignment of Mortgage dated August 2, 2019, and recorded on August 7, 2019, in Liber 1687, at Page 614, in Van Buren County Records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due and owing as of the date of this Notice, the sum of Sixty-Three Thousand Three Hundred Seventy-Five and 76/100 U.S. Dollars ($63,375.76). Said premise is situated at 11111 32nd Street, Gobles, MI 49055, in the Township of Pine Grove, Van Buren County, Michigan, and is described as: LEGAL DESCRIPTION: TOWNSHIP OF PINE GROVE, COUNTY OF VAN BUREN, AND STATE OF MICHIGAN: COMMENCING AT THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF SECTION 17, TOWN 1 SOUTH, RANGE 13 WEST; THENCE NORTH 2 DEGREES 8 MINUTES 30 SECONDS EAST ALONG THE WEST SECTION LINE 979.09 FEET TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING, THENCE CONTINUING NORTH 2 DEGREES 8 MINUTES 30 SECONDS EAST ALONG SAID SECTION LINE 340.25 FEET; THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES 56 MINUTES 32 SECONDS EAST 385.28 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 2 DEGREES 8 MINUTES 30 SECONDS WEST 340.25 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 89 DEGREES 56 MINUTES 32 SECONDS WEST 385.28 FEET TO THE WEST SECTION LINE AND THE PLACE OF BEGINNING. The redemption period shall be six (6) months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. Pursuant to Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, if the property is sold at foreclosure sale the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder under MCLA 600.3278 for damaging the property during the redemption period. ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Dated: 09/25/2025 For More Information, please call: Quintairos, Prieto, Wood & Boyer, P.A. Attorneys for Servicer 255 South Orange Avenue, Suite 900 Orlando, Florida 32801 (855) 287-0240 Matter No. MI-005529-24-2
(10-02)(10-23)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Denise A. Hill; Atty: Orlans; 1st Pub: 10/9/2025; Atty File #: 25-012407; Insurer: FNMA
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM on NOVEMBER 6, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE SALE: Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Jeffery M. Hill and Denise A. Hill, husband and wife, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for America's Wholesale Lender, Mortgagee, dated July 21, 2003 and recorded July 30, 2003 in Liber 1391, Page 489 Van Buren County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage is now held by Nationstar Mortgage LLC, by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Ninety Thousand Three Hundred Twenty-One and 41/100 Dollars ($90,321.41). Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue at the place of holding the circuit court within Van Buren County, Michigan at 1:00 PM on NOVEMBER 6, 2025. Said premises are located in the City of Hartford, Van Buren County Michigan, and are described as: Lots 45 and 46 Parascandolo Addition No. 1, according to the plat thereof as recorded in Liber 5 of Plats, on Page 16 and as amended by Van Buren County Circuit Court as recorded in Liber 476 on Page 368. 122 Paras Hill, Hartford, Michigan 49057 The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA §600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period. Dated: October 9, 2025 File No. 25-012407 Firm Name: Orlans Law Group PLLC Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road, Troy MI 48084 Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400
(10-09)(10-30)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Frederick D. Cornelius; Atty: Team J; 1st Pub: 10/9/2025; Atty File #: 455668F05; Insurer: (unknown)
Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement
Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on November 6, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:
Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Frederick D. Cornelius, a married man, fee simple
Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as owner trustee for RCF 2 Acquisition Trust
Date of Mortgage: March 21, 2003
Date of Mortgage Recording: April 14, 2003
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $144,451.62
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Paw Paw, Van Buren County, Michigan, and described as: The North 22 acres of the South 42 5/8 acres of the East 70.5 acres of the Northeast Quarter of Section 21, Town 3 South, Range 14 West, except the North 7 acres thereof.
Common street address (if any): 61398 40th St, Paw Paw, MI 49079-9753
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: October 9, 2025
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1573962
(10-09)(10-30)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Danielle M Mitchell; Atty: Schneiderman & Sherman, P.C. - Schneiderman & Sherman, PC; 1st Pub: 10/9/2025; Atty File #: 25-002860-1; Insurer: (unknown)
SHORT FORECLOSURE NOTICE - VAN BUREN COUNTY Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement. Notice is given under section 49c of the State Housing Development Authority Act of 1966, 1966 PA 346, MCL 125.1449c, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on November 13, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): Danielle M. Mitchell, a single woman and Adrian Mitchell, a single man Original Mortgagee: Superior National Bank Date of mortgage: November 10, 2022 Recorded on November 23, 2022, Liber 1746, on Page 237, Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Michigan State Housing Development Authority Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: One Hundred Fifty-Seven Thousand Nine Hundred Five and 15/100 Dollars ($157,905.15) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Van Buren County, and described as: Lot 67 and the East 7.9 feet off the East side of Lot 66 of Village of Bloomingdale, according to the recorded Plat thereof, as recorded in Liber 25 of Plats, Page 10, Van Buren County Records. Commonly known as 305 E Kalamazoo St, Bloomingdale, MI 49026 The redemption period will be 6 month from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 125.1449v, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 125.1449v(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Michigan State Housing Development Authority Mortgagee/Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400 1574216
(10-09)(10-30)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Danny J Clendenin; Atty: PUBLIC NOTICE AGENCY - PUBLIC NOTICE AGENCY; 1st Pub: 10/9/2025; Atty File #: 24-031214; Insurer: (unknown)
Notice of Foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM on November 6, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE: Mortgagors: Danny J & Angelene Clendenin, husband and wife Original Mortgagee: United States of America acting through the Rural Housing Service or successor agency, United States Department of Agriculture Date of mortgage: March 13, 2012 Recorded on March 15, 2012, Book 1563, on Page 519. Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: One Hundred Forty-Two Thousand Three Hundred Four and 46/100 Dollars ($142,304.46) Mortgaged premises: Located in the Township of Antwerp, Van Buren County and described as: LOT 32, WOODHENGE ESTATES, ACCORDING TO THE RECORDED PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN LIBER 6 OF PLATS, ON PAGE 27, IN THE OFFICE OF THE REGISTER OF DEEDS FOR VAN BUREN COUNTY. Commonly known as 22327 Woodhenge Dr, Mattawan MI 49071 The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 600.3241a(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of Act 236 of 1961 pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. **Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.** ALAW 5404 Cypress Center Drive, Suite 300, Tampa, FL 33609 (813) 221-4743 24-031214
(10-09)(10-30)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Pamela S. Bolden; Atty: Holzman, Ritter & Leduc, PLLC - Holzman Corkery, PLLC; 1st Pub: 10/9/2025; Atty File #: (N/A); Insurer: (unknown)
MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE NOTICE Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under Section 3212 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 P.M., on November 13, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. ALAW 5404 Cypress Center Drive, Suite 300, Tampa, FL 33609 (813) 221-4743 24-031214
(10-09)(10-30)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Pamela S. Bolden; Atty: Holzman, Ritter & Leduc, PLLC - Holzman Corkery, PLLC; 1st Pub: 10/9/2025; Atty File #: (N/A); Insurer: (unknown)
MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE NOTICE Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under Section 3212 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 P.M., on November 13, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Pamela S. Bolden, an unmarried person, ("Mortgagor"), gave a mortgage to Advia Credit Union, ("Mortgagee"), dated August 4, 2022, and recorded on August 9, 2022, in Liber 1741, on Page 964, Van Buren County Records, Michigan. On the date of this notice, there is claimed to be due the principal of Eight Thousand Six Hundred Forty-Seven Dollars and 79/100 Dollars ($8,647.79) plus accrued interest at 7.0% per annum. Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at the place of holding in the circuit court within Van Buren County, Michigan @ 1:00 P.M. on Thursday, November 13, 2025. Said premises are situated in the Township of Antwerp, County of Van Buren, State of Michigan, and are described as: Lot 10, RIDGELAWN SUBDIVISION, as recorded in Liber 6, Page 23 of Plats, Van Buren County Records. Commonly: 28859 Violet Ave, Paw Paw, MI 49079—Tax Id #80-02-415-010-00 The redemption period shall be six months from the date of such sale unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. If the property is sold at a foreclosure sale, under Section 600.3278 of the Michigan Compiled Laws, the Mortgagor will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Dated: October 9, 2025 Advia Credit Union, Mortgagee Holzman Law, PLLC By: Charles J. Holzman Attorney for Mortgagee 28366 Franklin Road Southfield, Michigan 48034 (248)352-4340
(10-09)(11-06)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Kay O`Neil; Atty: Schneiderman & Sherman, P.C. - Schneiderman & Sherman, PC; 1st Pub: 10/23/2025; Atty File #: 25-002950-1; Insurer: (unknown)
SHORT FORECLOSURE NOTICE - VAN BUREN COUNTY Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement. Notice is given under section 49c of the State Housing Development Authority Act of 1966, 1966 PA 346, MCL 125.1449c, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on November 20, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): Kay O`Neil and Cameron Richardson, wife and husband Original Mortgagee: Neighborhood Loans, Inc. Date of mortgage: May 17, 2024 Recorded on May 28, 2024, Liber 1766, on Page 258, Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Michigan State Housing Development Authority Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: One Hundred Ninety Thousand Nine Hundred Forty-Two and 05/100 Dollars ($190,942.05) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Van Buren County, and described as: Lot 3, Block 1, Union Addition to Lawton, according to the plat thereof recorded in Liber 10 of plats, Page 540, Van Buren County Records. Commonly known as 415 S Main St, Lawton, MI 49065 The redemption period will be 6 month from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 125.1449v, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 125.1449v(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Michigan State Housing Development Authority Mortgagee/Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400 1575520
(10-23)(11-13)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Richard A Eisner; Atty: Schneiderman & Sherman, P.C. - Schneiderman & Sherman, PC; 1st Pub: 10/23/2025; Atty File #: 25-002985-1; Insurer: (unknown)
SHORT FORECLOSURE NOTICE - VAN BUREN COUNTY Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on November 20, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): Richard A. Eisner and Sharon K. Eisner, husband and wife Original Mortgagee: Household Bank, FSB Date of mortgage: September 7, 2001 Recorded on September 21, 2001, Liber 1340, on Page 71, Foreclosing Assignee (if any): New Residential Mortgage Loan Trust 2014-3 Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: Forty-Six Thousand Five Hundred Thirty-Five and 65/100 Dollars ($46,535.65) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Van Buren County, and described as: Lot 1 of Bangor Heights, according to the recorded plat thereof, being a subdivision of part of Lot 3 and Lot 16, Supervisor`s Plat of Zuhl Addition to Bangor, as recorded in Liber 4 of Plats on Page 40, and adjacent land in the north half of section 7, town 2 south, range 15 west, according to the Government Survey thereof. Commonly known as 29449 Eastwood Ln, Bangor, MI 49013 The redemption period will be 6 month from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 600.3241a(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. If the above referenced property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of Act 236 of 1961, under MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. New Residential Mortgage Loan Trust 2014-3 Mortgagee/Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400 1575530
(10-23)(11-13)

VILLAGE OF DECATUR - VAN BUREN COUNTY, MICHIGAN
ORDINANCE NO. 2025-004
AN ORDINANCE TO ADD A NEW CHAPTER 33 TO THE DECATUR VILLAGE CODE TO ESTABLISH A PROCESS FOR LEVYING SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS, INCLUDING SINGLE-LOT SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS

The Village of Decatur Ordains:

Section 1. Addition. Chapter 33 is hereby added to the Village Code to read as follows:

Sec. 33-1. Authority to Assess.

The whole cost or any part thereof of any local public improvement may be defrayed by special assessment upon the lands specially benefited by the improvement in the manner provided in this chapter.

Sec. 33-2. Definitions.

The following words, terms, and phrases, when used in this chapter, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

A. Cost means, when referring to the cost of any local public improvement, the cost of services, plans, condemnation, spreading of rolls, notices, advertising, financing, construction and legal fees and all other costs incident to the making of such improvement, the special assessments therefor and the financing thereof.
B. Local public improvement means any public improvement which is of such a nature as to benefit especially any real property or properties within a district in the vicinity of such improvement.

Sec. 33-3. Initiation.

A. Initiation by Village Council. Proceedings for the making of local public improvements within the Village, the tentative necessity thereof, and the determination that the whole or any part of the expense thereof shall be defrayed by special assessment upon the property especially benefited; provided, that all special assessments levied shall be in proportion to the benefits derived from the improvements, may be commenced by resolution of the Council, with or without a petition.
B. Initiation by Petition. Local public improvements may be initiated by petition signed by property owners whose aggregate property in the proposed district was assessed for not less than 60% of the total assessed value of the privately owned real property located therein, as shown by the last preceding general tax records of the Village. Such petition shall contain a brief description of the property owned by the respective signatories thereof, and, if it shall appear that the petition is signed by at least 60% as aforesaid, the Village Clerk shall certify same to the Council. The petition shall be addressed to the Council and filed with the Village Clerk and shall in no event be considered directory but is advisory only.

Sec. 33-4. Survey and Report.

Before the Council shall consider the making of any local public improvement, the same shall be referred by resolution to the Village Manager, directing them to cause to be prepared a report which shall include:

A. Necessary plans, profiles, specifications and detailed estimates of cost;
B. An estimate of the life of the improvement;
C. A description of the assessment district; and
D. Such other pertinent information as will permit the Council to decide the cost, extent and necessity of the improvement proposed and what part or proportion thereof should be paid by special assessments upon the property especially benefited and what part, if any, should be paid by the Village at large.

The Village Manager may have the assistance of the Village Clerk, building inspector, and such trustees or others as are required to complete the work, and may request outside engineering assistance from the Council. The Council shall not finally determine to proceed with the making of any local public improvement until such report of the Village Manager has been filed, nor until after a public hearing has been held by the Council for the purpose of hearing objections to the making of such improvement.

Sec. 33-5. Public Hearing on Necessity.

A. After the Village Manager has presented the report required in § 33-4 for making any local public improvement as requested in the resolution of the Council, and the Council has reviewed such report, a resolution may be passed tentatively determining the necessity of the improvement, setting forth the nature thereof, prescribing what part or proportion of the cost of such improvement shall be paid by special assessment upon the property especially benefited, determination of benefits received by affected properties, and what part, if any, shall be paid by the Village at large; designating the limits of the special assessment district to be affected, designating whether to be assessed according to frontage or other benefits, placing the complete information on file in the office of the Village Clerk, where the information may be found for examination, and directing the Village Clerk to give notice of public hearings on the proposed improvement, at which time and place opportunity will be given interested persons to be heard. Such notice shall be given in the manner as required by law. The hearing required by this section may be held at any regular, adjourned, or special meeting of the Council.
B. The notice shall include a statement that appearance and protest at the hearing in the special assessment proceedings is required in order to appeal the amount of the special assessment to the state tax tribunal, and that an owner or party in interest, or his agent, may appear in person at the hearing to protest the special assessment or may file his appearance or protest by letter, and his personal appearance shall not be required. The notice shall further include a statement that the owner or any party having an interest in the real property may file a written appeal of the special assessment with the state tax tribunal within 30 days after the confirmation of the special assessment roll if that special assessment was protested at the hearing held for the purpose of confirming the roll.
C. At the public hearing on the proposed improvement, all persons interested shall be given an opportunity to be heard, after which the Council may modify the scope of the local public improvement in such a manner as they shall deem to be in the best interest of the Village as a whole; provided, that if the amount of work is increased or additions are made to the district, then another hearing shall be held pursuant to notice prescribed in § 33-5. If the determination of the Council shall be to proceed with the improvement, a resolution shall be passed approving the necessary profiles, plans, specifications, assessment district and detailed estimates of cost, and directing the Village Treasurer to prepare a special assessment roll in accordance with the Council's determination and report the same to the Council for confirmation.

Sec. 33-6. Deviation from Plans and Specifications.

No deviation from original plans or specifications as adopted shall be permitted by any officer or employee of the Village without authority of the Council by resolution. A copy of the resolution authorizing such changes or deviation shall be certified by the Village Clerk and attached to the original plans and specifications on file in the Village Clerk's office.

Sec. 33-7. Limitations on Preliminary Expenses.

The Council shall specify the provisions and procedures for financing a local public improvement. No contract or expenditure, except for the cost of preparing necessary profiles, plans, specifications and estimates of cost, shall be made for the improvement, nor shall any improvement be commenced until the special assessment roll to defray the costs of the improvement shall have been made and confirmed.

Sec. 33-8. Special Assessment Roll.

A. *Creation.* The Village Treasurer shall make a special assessment roll of all lots and parcels of land within the proposed special assessment district benefited by the proposed improvement and assess to each lot or parcel of land the proportionate amount benefited thereby. The amount spread in each case shall be based upon the detailed estimate of the Village Manager, as approved by the Council.
B. *Filing.* When the Village Treasurer shall have completed such special assessment roll, the Village Treasurer shall file the special assessment roll with the Village Clerk for presentation to the Council for review and certification by it.
C. *Meeting to Review.* Upon receipt of such special assessment roll, the Council, by resolution, shall accept such specials assessment roll and order it to be filed in the office of the Village Clerk for public examination, shall fix the time and place the Council will meet to review such special assessment roll and direct the Village Clerk to give notice of a public hearing for the purpose of affording an opportunity for interested persons to be heard. Such notice shall be given in the manner required by law. The hearing required by this section may be held at any regular, adjourned or special meeting of the Council. At this meeting, all interested persons or parties shall present in writing their objections, if any, to the assessments against them. The Village Treasurer shall be present at every meeting of the Council at which a special assessment is to be reviewed.
D. *Changes and Corrections.* The Council shall meet at the time and place designated for the review of such special assessment roll, and at such meeting, or a proper adjournment thereof, shall consider all objections thereto submitted in writing. The Council may correct such roll as to any special assessment or description of any lot or parcel of land or other errors appearing therein; or it may, by resolution, annul such assessment roll and direct that new proceedings be instituted. The same proceedings shall be followed in making a new roll as in the making of the original roll. If, after hearing all objections and making a record of such changes as the Council deems justified, the Council determines that it is satisfied with such special assessment roll and that such assessments are in proportion to benefits received, it shall thereupon pass a resolution reciting such determinations, confirming such roll, placing it on file in the office of the Village Clerk and directing the Village Clerk to attach their warrant to a certified copy thereof within 10 days, therein commanding the Village Treasurer to spread and the treasurer to collect the various sums and amounts appearing thereon as directed by the Council. Such roll shall have the date of confirmation endorsed thereon and shall from that date be final and conclusive for the purpose of the improvement to which it applies, subject only to adjustment to conform to the actual cost of the improvement, as provided in § 33-17.
E. *Objection to Assessments.* If at, or prior to, the final confirmation of any special assessments, more than 50% of the number of owners of privately owned real property to be assessed for an improvement, or in the case of paving or similar improvements more than 50% of the number of owners of frontage to be assessed for any such improvement, shall object in writing to the proposed improvement, the improvement shall not be made by proceedings delineated by this chapter without a five-sixths vote of the members of the Council; provided, that this section shall not apply to sidewalk construction.

Sec. 33-9. Due Date; Installment Payments.

All special assessments, except such installments thereof as the Council shall make payable at a future time as provided in this chapter, shall be due and payable upon confirmation of the special assessment roll. The Council may provide for the payment of special assessments in annual installments not to exceed thirty (30) in number. Should the Council provide for annual installments, the first installment being due upon confirmation of the roll or on such date as the Council may determine and deferred installments being due annually thereafter, or, in the discretion of the Council, may be spread upon and made a part of each annual Village tax roll thereafter until all are paid. Interest shall be charged on all deferred installments at a rate not to exceed 7% per annum, commencing on the due date of the first installment and payable on the due date of each subsequent installment; the full amount of all or any deferred installments, with interest accrued thereon to the date of payment, may be paid in advance of the due dates thereof. If the full assessment or the first installment thereof shall be due upon confirmation, each property owner shall have 60 days from the date of confirmation to pay the full amount of such assessment, or the full amount of any installments thereof, without interest or penalty.

Sec. 33-10. Notice.

After the Council has confirmed the roll, the Village Clerk shall notify by mail each property owner on such roll that such roll has been filed, stating the amount assessed and the terms of payment. Failure on the part of the Village Clerk to give such notice or of such owner to receive such notice shall not invalidate any special assessment roll of the Village or any assessment thereon, nor excuse the payment of interest or penalties.

Sec. 33-11. Collection and Deposit of Special Assessment.

A. *Creation of Lien.* Special assessments and all interest, penalties, and charges thereon from the date of confirmation of the roll shall become a debt to the Village from the persons to whom they are assessed, and, until paid, shall be and remain a lien upon the property assessed, of the same character and effect as the lien created by general law for state and county taxes. The lands upon which the same are a lien shall be subject to sale therefor the same as are lands upon which delinquent Village taxes constitute a lien.
B. *Delinquent Special Assessments.* Any assessment, or part thereof, remaining unpaid on the first Monday of October following the date when the assessment became delinquent shall be reported as unpaid by the Village Clerk to the Council. Any such delinquent assessment, together with all accrued interest shall be transferred and reassessed on the next annual Village tax roll in a column headed "Special Assessments" with a penalty of 4% upon such total amount added thereto, and when so transferred and reassessed upon such tax roll shall be collected in all respects as provided for the collection of Village taxes.
C. *Collection.* If bonds are issued in anticipation of the collection of special assessments, all collections on each special assessment roll or combination of rolls shall be set in a separate fund for the payment of the principal and interest on the bonds so issued in anticipation of the payment of such special assessments, and shall be used for no other purpose.
D. *Use of Accounts.* Moneys raised by special assessment to pay the cost of any local improvements shall be held in a special fund to pay such cost or to repay any money borrowed therefor. Each special assessment account must be used only for the improvement project for which the assessment was levied, expenses incidental thereto, including the repayment of the principal and interest on money borrowed therefor, and to refund excessive assessments, if refunds are authorized.

Sec. 33-12. Additional Assessments; Refunds.

The Village Manager shall, within 60 days after the completion of each local or special public improvement, compile the actual cost thereof and certify the cost to the Village Treasurer who shall adjust the special assessment roll to correspond therewith. Should the assessment prove larger than necessary by 5% or less, the assessment shall be reported to the Council which may place the excess in the Village treasury or make a refund thereof pro rata according to the assessment. If the assessment exceeds the amount necessary by more than 5%, the entire excess shall be credited to owners of property as shown by the Village assessment roll upon which such assessment has been levied, pro rata, according to the assessment; provided, however, that no refunds of special assessments may be made which impair, or contravene the provision of any outstanding obligation or bond secured in whole or part by such special assessments. When any special assessment roll shall prove insufficient to meet the cost of the improvement for which it was made, the Council may make an additional pro rata assessment, but the total amount assessed against any one parcel of land shall not exceed the benefits received by such lot or parcel of land.

Sec. 33-13. Contested Assessments.

No suit or action of any kind shall be constituted or maintained for the purpose of contesting or enjoining the collection of any special assessment, unless within 30 days after the confirmation of the special assessment roll written notice is given to the Council of intention to file such suit or action, stating the grounds on which it is claimed such assessment is illegal, and unless such suit or action shall be commenced within 60 days after confirmation of the roll.

Sec. 33-14. Reassessment for Benefits.

Whenever the Council shall deem any special assessment invalid or defective for any reason whatever, or if any court of competent jurisdiction shall have adjudged such assessment to be illegal for any reason whatever, in whole or in part, the Council shall have power to cause a new assessment to be made for the same purpose for which the former assessment was made, whether the improvement or any part thereof has been completed and whether any part of the assessment has been collected or not. All proceedings on such reassessment and for the collection thereof shall be made in the manner provided for the original assessment. If any portion of the original assessment shall have been collected and not refunded, it shall be applied upon the reassessment and the reassessment shall to that extent be deemed satisfied. If more than the amount reassessed shall have been collected, the balance shall be refunded to the person making such payment.

Sec. 33-15. Combinations of Projects.

The Council may combine several districts into one project for the purpose of effecting a saving in the costs; provided, however, that for each district there shall be established separate funds and accounts to cover the cost of the project.

Sec. 33-16. Apportionment of Divided Lots or Lands.

Should any lot or land be divided after a special assessment thereon has been confirmed and divided into installments, the Village Treasurer shall apportion the uncollected amounts upon the several lots and lands so divided and shall enter the several amounts as amendments upon the special assessment roll. The Village Clerk shall, within ten days after such apportionment, send notice of such action to the persons concerned at their last-known address by first class mail. The apportionment shall be final and conclusive on all parties unless protest in writing is received by the Village Clerk within 20 days of the mailing of the notice.

Sec. 33-17. Correction of Invalid Assessments.

Whenever any special assessment shall, in the opinion of the Council, be invalid by reason of irregularity or informality in the proceedings or if any court of competent jurisdiction shall adjudge such assessment to be illegal, the Council shall, whether the improvement has been made or not, have the power to cause a new assessment to be made for the same purpose for which the former assessment was made. A former assessment levied upon any premises and thereafter set aside, if such former assessment has been paid and not refunded, shall be applied upon the new assessment on the premises, and the new assessment shall to that extent be deemed satisfied.

If in any action it shall appear that by reason of any irregularities or informalities the assessment has not been properly made against the person assessed or upon the lot or premises sought to be charged, the court may, nevertheless, on satisfactory proof that expense has been incurred by the Village which is a proper charge against the person assessed or the lot or premises in question, render judgment for the amount properly chargeable against such person or upon such lot or premises.

Sec. 33-18. Single Lot Special Assessment.

A. (*a) Report to Council.* When the Village incurs or anticipates incurring an expense in relation to a single lot or parcel, which expense is or may be chargeable against the lot or parcel pursuant to law, the amount of labor and material, and any other applicable expense, with a description of the lot or parcel for which the expense was or is anticipated to be incurred, and the name of the owner, if known, shall be reported to the Village Council.
B. *(b) Determination of Council.* After reviewing the report, the Village Council may determine by resolution what amount or part of such expense will be charged and the premises upon which the charge will be levied as a special assessment. The Village Council will determine the number of installments in which the assessment may be paid, determine the rate of interest to be charged, designate the premises upon which the special assessment may be levied, direct the preparation of a special assessment roll and fix the time and place when it will review the assessment roll, which meeting shall not be less than the time required to provide notice to the property owner as required by law.
C. *(c) Certificate of roll.* When the assessment roll has been completed, it shall be filed with the Village Clerk who will present it to the Village Council.
D. *(d) Objections to roll.* Any person deeming themselves aggrieved by the special assessment roll may file that person's objections and protest in writing with the Village Clerk at or prior to the time of hearing, which objections shall specify how said person is aggrieved. If the objections are timely and properly filed, the objecting person's appearance in person is not required at the hearing. (e) Review of roll. The Village Council shall review the special assessment roll at the time and place appointed and consider any objections. The Village Council may correct the roll as to any assessment or description of any lot or parcel of land or other errors. Any changes made in the roll shall be noted in the minutes.
E. *(f) Confirmation of roll.* After the hearing, the Village Council may confirm such special assessment roll, with any corrections that were made, and the Village Clerk shall endorse the date of confirmation and, upon confirmation, the roll shall be final and conclusive. Thereafter, all charges and amounts confirmed shall be a lien on the property and collected pursuant to the provisions of applicable law.

Section 2. Effective Date. This ordinance shall become effective upon publication.

YEAS: Blute, Jackson, Janssen, Mead Jr, Pulfay **NAYS:** None **ABSTAIN:** None **ABSENT:** Pachner

CERTIFICATION

As the duly appointed village clerk of the Village of Decatur, Van Buren County, Michigan, I certify this is a true and complete copy of an ordinance adopted by the Decatur Village Council at its meeting of October 6th, 2025.

Jessica Pelfrey, Village President
Megan Duncan, Village Clerk

State association of County Clerks oppose the RANKMIVOTE ballot proposal

Van Buren County Clerk, Suzie Roehm, a member of the State Association of County Clerks, recently joined with fellow county clerks in approving a resolution to oppose the RANKMIVote ballot proposal.

The Michigan Association of County Clerks, in its role as stewards of Michigan's election system, respectfully opposes the RankMIVote ballot proposal due to its impact on ballot clarity, voter understanding, election costs, timely reporting of results, and overall election integrity, according to the resolution provided by Roehm.

The resolution further stated, "The Michigan Association of County Clerks urges voters, legislators, and partner organizations to reject the RankMIVote ballot initiative and instead support efforts to strengthen Michigan's existing, trusted election system to ensure clarity, accessibility, and confidence for all voters.

Roem said the Michigan Association of County Clerks (MACC) is committed to ensuring secure, accurate, accessible, and transparent elections for all voters in the State of Michigan.

MACC said in the resolution, "in this instance, the RankMIVote proposal directly and substantially alters the administration of elections in Michigan, placing new and complex responsibilities on clerks and their teams, and thus requires careful evaluation from those charged with carrying it out."

The resolution further stated, "Michigan voters already face some of the longest and most complex ballots in the nation, covering federal, state, county, city, township, school, and special district contests on a single ballot, and the RankMIVote proposal would further complicate ballots by requiring voters to numerically rank candidates in certain contests while others remain unchanged, adding inconsistency, voter confusion, and voter fatigue."

The resolution continued, "Michigan's constitution grants the right to straight-party voting in partisan general elections, a provision that does not align with the RankMIVote system, creating uncertainty about how overrides, mixed rankings, or non-certified candidates would be treated under Michigan law."

Acording to the resolution, if RCV was implemented, "(it) would require Michigan clerks to simultaneously administer multiple voting systems, necessitating extensive training, costly new tabulation procedures, expensive voter education campaigns, and specialized software, likely reliant on third-party or open-source vendors to interpret results, while ongoing costs for ballot printing and paper would fall on local governments and taxpayers. Ballots would also become more complicated, with only some contests using ranked choice voting, thereby requiring two different sets of instructions on the same ballot and further confusing voters."

A recent survey showed that 65 percent of Michiganders oppose RCV, and more than a dozen states have banned it due to concerns about complexity, disenfranchisement, and loss of voter trust.

The resolution stated, "Michigan's election system is uniquely structured, with more than 1,500 city and township clerks directly administering elections under statutes tailored to Michigan's decentralized framework, making it one of the most locally managed election systems in the nation. While Ranked Choice Voting may function within other states' centralized or differently organized election codes, Michigan's constitutional provisions, statutory requirements, and long-standing practices—including straight-party voting, uniform ballot design, and established recount and audit procedures—are deeply interwoven; and layering an RCV system onto this framework risks disrupting a cohesive ecosystem that already ensures accessibility and transparency, and may ultimately undermine the ability to deliver the quality of election administration that Michigan voters expect and deserve."

NOTICE OF ELECTION
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2025 CONSOLIDATED ELECTION
VAN BUREN COUNTY, MICHIGAN

TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS

OF ALMENA TOWNSHIP, ANTWERP TOWNSHIP, BLOOMINGDALE TOWNSHIP, LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP, PAW PAW TOWNSHIP, PINE GROVE TOWNSHIP, PORTER TOWNSHIP, WAVERLY TOWNSHIP and the CITY OF GOBLES COUNTY OF VAN BUREN, STATE OF MICHIGAN

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Consolidated Election will be conducted in the above-named townships/city, Van Buren County on Tuesday, November 4, 2025, from 7:00 am to 8 pm for the following purposes:

PROPOSAL SECTION
District Library
Van Buren District Library Millage Renewal

Shall the Van Buren District Library, County of Van Buren, be authorized to levy a millage annually in an amount not to exceed .1984 mill ($0.1984 per $1,000 of taxable value), which is a renewal of the millage rate that was last levied in 2024, against all taxable property within the Van Buren District Library district for a period of ten (10) years, 2025 through 2034, inclusive, for the purpose of providing funds for all district library purposes authorized by law? The estimate of the revenue the Van Buren District Library will collect if the millage is approved and levied by the Van Buren District Library in the first year (2025) is approximately $484,000. To the extent required by law, a portion of the revenues from this millage will be captured within the district and disbursed to the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority of Van Buren County. Pursuant to Funding and Reciprocal Borrowing Agreements, 75% of the millage revenues received from Porter Township will be disbursed to the Village of Lawton Public Library and 10% of the millage revenues received from Bangor Township will be disbursed to the Hartford Public Library.

City Specific

NONPARTISAN SECTION
Gobles City
City Commissioner

Three (3) Candidates running for Three (3) Seats

All clerks will be open 7 am – 8 pm on Tuesday, November 4, 2025 Extended office hours will be offered at the following locations on the specific dates.

ALMENA TOWNSHIP
Almena Twp. Hall
27625 CR 375, Paw Paw
Sandra Rickli, Twp Clerk
Mon, Wed, Th 9 am – 4 pm
Sat 11/1 8 am – 4 pm

WAVERLY TOWNSHIP
Waverly Township Hall
42114 M-43 Hwy Paw Paw
Starr Houston, Twp Clerk
Mon - Wed 9 am – 12 noon
Sat 11/1 9 am – 5 pm

LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP
Lawrence Twp Hall
411 N Paw Paw St
Lawrence
Tracie Rindfield, Twp Clerk
Mon – Fri 8 am – 3 pm
Sat 11/1 10 am – 2 pm
Sun 11/2 10 am - 2 pm

BLOOMINGDALE TOWNSHIP
Bloomingdale Twp Hall
Bloomingdale
Melanie Kelly, Twp Clerk
Mon – Wed 9 am – 2 pm
Sat 11/1 9 am – 1 pm
Sun 11/2 9 am – 1 pm– 3 pm

PORTER TOWNSHIP
Porter Township Hall
88040 M-40 Hwy Lawton
Heather Smith, Twp Clerk
By Appt - Mon – Fri 3 – 5 pm
Sat 11/1 9 am – 5 pm

PINE GROVE TOWNSHIP
Pine Grove Twp Hall
26520 CR 388 Gobles
Michelle Meert, Twp Clerk
Mon,Tues, Th 9 am – 12 noon
Sat 11/1 7 am – 3 pm

ANTWERP TOWNSHIP
Antwerp Township Hall
24821 Front St., Mattawan
Chantel Reyna, Twp Clerk
Mon - Th 7 am – 5 pm
Sat 11/1 8 am – 4 pm

CITY OF GOBLES
Gobles City Hall
105 E Main St, Gobles
Paula Sipes, City Clerk
Mon – Fri 8:30 am – 4:30 pm
Sat 11/1 7 am – 3 pm

PAW PAW TOWNSHIP
Paw Paw Twp Hall
114 North Gremps St.
Paw Paw
Rebecca Payne, Twp Clerk
Mon – Wed 8 am – 3 pm
Thurs 8 am – 11 am
Sat 11/1 8:30 am – 4:30 pm

Absentee ballots are available for all elections; registered voters may contact the local clerk to obtain an application for an absent voter ballot. A sample ballot may be viewed at mi.gov/vote.

Persons with disabilities needing accommodations as defined by the American with Disabilities Act should contact the local clerk's office.

Paw Paw Kiwanis Student of the Month named

Izzy McReynolds has been named the Paw Paw Kiwanis Club's September Student of the Month. She is the daughter of Renee and Brandon Picardat and James and Courtney McReynolds. McReynolds was nominated by her teachers, Mrs. Oetjens and Mr. Kovach. Mrs. Oetjens said in her nomination, "I am excited to nominate Izzy for Student of the Month. As the president of the National Honor Society, she demonstrates outstanding leadership while truly caring about making our school a better place. Izzy is always willing to step up, support others, and bring people together. In the classroom, she works hard, leads by example, and encourages her classmates to reach their full potential. Outside of class - whether as a cheerleader or through NHS - Izzy inspires others with her commitment to community service and her involvement in school activities. She is a role model who reflects the very best of our school community. What truly sets Izzy apart is her kindness, her positive attitude, and her exceptional organizational skills. Watching her lead her NHS peers with such dedication and grace was a powerful reminder of the impact a strong student leader can have." Mr. Kovach said of McReynolds "Isabella (Izzy) is currently enrolled in three AP classes this trimester, along with Voices of the Future and an online course. Because of her schedule, she takes AP Calculus on her own, with support from myself. She currently has A's in all her classes, and her current cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) is 4.20. In addition to her coursework, Izzy is a four-year member of Sideline Cheer and Competitive Cheer, a member of Select Treble Ensemble (STE), Voices of the Future, National Honor Society, Student Council, Key Club, and works as a server at Brewster's in Paw Paw. Izzy is considered a team leader on the cheer team and represents a prime example of a student-athlete at Paw Paw, giving her best effort in all areas of her academic and athletic commitments and going above and beyond to excel at each task. I have had Izzy in past years as a student in Precalculus, and she has always worked extremely hard, and she strives to do the best she can, asks great questions, and works to truly understand the material." Shown in photo, from left, teacher Mr. Kovach, mother, Renee Picardat, Izzy McReynolds, her father, Brandon Picardat, and Kiwanian Patrick Gorenchan.

Courtesy photo

Prosecutor handles 70 felony cases in September

Misdemeanor cases authorized - 153
Felony cases authorized - 70
Authorizations by category (not all inclusive):
Absconding on Bond - Felony - 0
Assault
Misdemeanor assault - 18
Assault with a dangerous weapon - 8
Resisting/obstructing/assaulting a police officer - 11
Assault with intent to do great bodily harm - 5
Assault with intent to murder - 2
Unlawful imprisonment - 1
Breaking and entering/home invasion - 11
Criminal sexual conduct – All degrees - 0
Child abuse - 1
Domestic violence
Misdemeanor -36
Felony - 3
Fleeing and eluding a police officer - 2
Larceny
Larceny/retail fraud – Misdemeanor - 21
Larceny/retail fraud – felony - 5
Unlawful driving away of a vehicle/unlawful use -3
Operating while impaired/intoxicated
Misdemeanor - 11
Felony - 4
Possession/delivery of a controlled substance other than methamphetamine - 11
Possession/delivery of methamphetamine - 9
Weapons charges - 16

PUBLIC NOTICE
CITY OF GOBLES

Notice is hereby given that a Public Accuracy Test for the November General Election on November 4, 2025, will be conducted on Thursday, October 30, 2025 at 9:30 a.m. at the Gobles City Hall located at 105 E. Main St., Gobles, Michigan.

The Public Accuracy test is conducted to demonstrate that the program and computer that will be used to tabulate the results of the election have been prepared in accordance with the law.

Paula Sipes
Gobles City Clerk

CLASSIFIEDS

• WANTED •

WE BUY OLD BASEBALL CARDS, OTHER SPORTS MEMORABILIA AND OLD VINTAGE COINS. CAN BE REACHED AT 517-416-1629. WE PAY CASH.

CLARK'S AUTO PARTS, INC. is buying cars, trucks & all metals for recycling. Lawrence, 674-4905 or 1-800-707-8650.

STANDING TIMBER. Top Michigan lumber manufacturer seeking landowners with 25 or more mature hardwood trees to sell. Qualityhardwoodsinc.com • 517-566-8061.

• SERVICES •

TIM'S STUMP GRINDING SERVICE- I believe in respectable service. 269-299-5052, 269-624-6884.

GRANT DALY PAINTING: Interior/exterior residential, commercial, industrial. Great references & free estimates. Call 657-7893.

HAULING, CLEANING RECYCLING. Moving service. Right Quick Hauling. Dan Wydick, Dustin Wydick, Daniel Wydick, 423-8545. Serving since 1994.

FIELD PLUMBING & HEATING, INC. Services all brands of heating & cooling equipment in your home or business. 24/7 service for over 50 years, 269-674-3839.

MEDICARE GURU
Call
Janet Bontrager
Insurance Advisor
(269) 998-6977

BUYING JUNK CARS, trucks, scrap metal and farm machinery. Kalamazoo Metal Recyclers, 1525 King Highway, Kalamazoo. 269-381-1315.

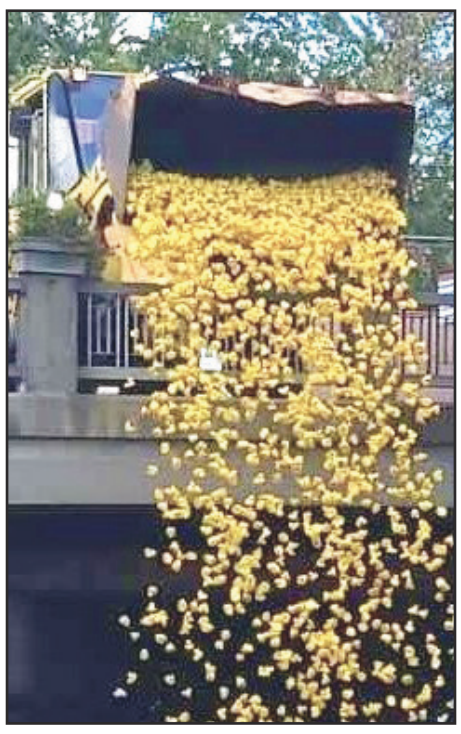
BUDGET APPLIANCE SERVICE, 269-685-8902. Call us today for your appliance repair or service needs! Quality service at affordable prices.

PRO HANDYMAN SERVICE SOUTH HAVEN AREA Call 269-903-6397.

• AUCTIONS •

ALL SECURE SELF STORAGE will hold sale of abandoned property at a public sale pursuant in 540.521-570.527: Public Auction: 10/28/2025 at or after 9:30a.m. EST: 37404 W Red Arrow Highway Paw Paw: Sara Reynolds, 111; Daniel Hossler, 216.

Paw Paw Lions Club presents annual Duck Race proceeds to two groups



PAW PAW - As the final event of the 2025 Paw Paw Wine and Harvest Festival, the Paw Paw Lions Club annual Duck Race was held at Warner Vineyards, here, in front of an enthusiastic crowd. Delighted racegoers watched as a front-end loader driven by Paw Paw Lions Club member Clarence Stimac dropped 3,000 ducks into the Paw Paw River from the M-40 bridge. The winning duck earned $1,200 for its owner who purchased their duck during the festival or at Family Fare, Paw Paw, on Saturdays in August, or from a Paw Paw Lions Club member who sold tickets while out and about. Along with the first-place prize, $600 was awarded for second place and $300 for third place. Several people also received gift cards from Family Fare and Firekeepers Casino.

The real winners were this year's beneficiaries: Hospital Hospitality Houses in Kalamazoo and the Mattawan Dream Team.

The Hospitality Houses are located near Bronson and Beacon Health System (formerly Ascension Borgess) hospitals and provide a home away from home for families of patients at no cost.

The Mattawan Dream Team is a group of high school students from Mattawan who puts on elaborate parties and events for children with cancer in coordination with Cancer Families United. Sadly, for some of the young people, the celebration put on by these high school students turns out to be their last.

Both beneficiaries visited the Paw Paw Lions Club during the summer to talk about their endeavors prior to duck sales.

"Thanks to our community sponsors and ticket buyers, this year was our biggest Duck Race yet!" according to race co-chair, Lion Tammie Grabowski. At two recent club meetings, checks for $6,000 each were presented to Hospital Hospitality Houses and The Dream Team.

Lawrence Public Schools names four new members to Hall of Fame

Lawrence Public Schools held its Lawrence Hall of Fame Game Friday night, October 17. Prior to the start of the 8-man football game against Martin, Lawrence held a ceremony for the four new HOF inductees. They include, from left, Barry Sisson, Class of 1972. Sheila Goens, second from left, accepted a plaque in honor of her late father, Bert Goens, Class of 1955. Shown second from right is Steve Blum, Class of 2000, and at far right, Irma Aranda-Cruz, who accepted a plaque in honor of her brother, the late Ricky Aranda.

Courier-Leader photo/Paul Garrod

Lawton Village discusses health, dental plans

By Paul Garrod
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LAWTON - During the Oct. 14, Lawton Village Council meeting, Lawton Village Clerk Brittany Rathbun told the village council and others that village dental and vision plans were going to be taken by three village employees who do not take health insurance.

She said due to several laws regarding the FSA limited spending accounts that these employees would qualify for, and how much it would cost to enroll for these employees, the village will provide their $50 dental deductibles through one-time payment in October paychecks.

Clerk Rathbun said the health insurance renewal is now available as well, and the village saw an increase of approximately nine percent overall. Deductibles were also raised for the year 2026. The village will host open enrollment for employees during the first week in November.

During Citizen's Comments, Sheila Motycka, a resident on Cemetery Lane, asked village council members if Acorn Lane could be opened as a village operated road.

Lawton Village Manager Todd Hackenberg said that as far as providing access on Acorn Lane, Motycka would need permission from all property owners that they are passing, per the Village of Lawton attorney.

Since it has never been a village road, the established part is only 25 feet right-of- way.

Steve Cowley, who owns 811 Acorn Lane, said that he is opposed to putting a road through there, unless the village wanted to purchase 25 feet of his property. He told the village council that other owners have access to property from Cemetery Lane, and he does not want to live in the middle of a through street. He told council members that he walked and looked at the easement, a shed is not in the 25-foot right-of-way, however, to widen the road, several large trees would have to be cut down. He said the large trees are an asset to the property.

Lawton Village Council President Pro-Tem Eric Dudek stated this is a larger issue than what could be resolved currently. To open the road to the village, Cowley and the other property owners would have to first agree to open the road and then sell a portion of the properties to the village to allow for a road to happen.

Village Manager Hackenberg presented the 2024 Welch's IFT update to the Lawton Village Council. Per the agreement, Welch's in Lawton must maintain a minimum of 139 employees, and for 2024, Welch's had 159 total employees, exceeding their portion of the agreement for 2024.

Van Buren County Commissioner Tina Leary, who attended the meeting, told the village council that she is a member of the county's 911 Authority Board. She said that recent statistics presented that said an individual is twice as likely to survive a cardiac arrest in Van Buren County than anywhere else in Michigan, due in part to the Van Buren County Central Dispatch. She said dispatchers instruct the person calling 911 on how to perform CPR until first responders arrive on scene.

The council also approved setting village trick or treat hours Oct. 31, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. In case of inclement weather, the event will be rescheduled.

The village council also approved a village planning commission recommendation to reappoint planning commissioners C. Knapp, P. Rathbun, and S. Knudstrup to new terms expiring in November 2028.

Village Manager Hackenberg reported on progress at Reid's Corner, saying the sprinkler system has been winterized. He also said MDOT will continue maintain the right- of-way through next summer. Hackenberg said the new village leaf vac truck has been delivered and village employees have been receiving instructions on its use.

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Thurs., October 30
10 am-11 am
BABIES & TODDLERS: Mother Goose on the Loose
Thurs., October 30
6:30 pm-7:30 pm
ADULTS: Between the Lines Book Club
The Poison Thread by Laura Purcell
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